

WE CLAIM AS OUR INVENTION:

1. A method to transfer data in a network of servers, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer program module supplying data from a first server;

providing a reading computer program module that reads the supplied data; and

selecting one of the following transmission modes

a complete storage of the data in a file occurs before the reading computer program module reads the data,

a segment-by-segment storage of the data in a file occurs such that the reading computer program module already begins with the reading of a segment while the supplying computer program module is still supplying data, and

a direct transmission of the data between the supplying computer program module and the reading computer program module occurs without buffering.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the transmission mode is selected controlled by parameters, and wherein the reading computer program module and the computer program module supplying the data cooperate via the control parameters.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein in the transmission mode with the direct transmission of the data, the reading computer program module reacts, controlled by parameters, in one of the following manners when data to be read no longer exists:

the read event is continuously repeated until data to be read is present, or until the reading computer program module receives a notification that data is no longer being supplied, or

the read event is aborted.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the data are supplied in blocks in a block format predetermined by the supplying computer program.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the data transmission of the data occurs via a socket connection established between the supplying computer program module and the reading computer program module.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the data to be transferred are print data, and print data servers are used as a server.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein given the storage in segments of print data, print data of a print job are already further processed via the reading computer program module in a subsequent process, while subsequent print data of the same print job are still being stored.

8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the transmission mode to be applied is established dependent on the print job in a print job corollary file.

9. A method according to claim 6 wherein the supplying computer program module runs on the first server, and the reading computer program module runs on a second server.

10. A method to transfer data in a network of servers, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer program module running on, and supplying data from, a first server;

providing a reading computer program module running on a second server that reads the supplied data; and

selecting one of the following transmission modes

a storage of the data in a file occurs before the reading computer program module reads the data,

a segment-by-segment storage of the data in a file occurs such that the reading computer program module already begins with the reading of a segment while the supplying computer program module is still supplying data, and

a transmission of the data between the supplying computer program module and the reading computer program module occurs without buffering.

11. A computer program system to transfer data in a network of servers, comprising:

a computer program module running on a first server, supplying data from the first server;

a reading computer program module running on a second server that reads the supplied data; and

the supplying computer program module and the reading computer program module employing one of the following transmission modes

a complete storage of the data in a file occurs before the reading computer program module reads the data,

a segment-by-segment storage of the data in a file occurs such that the reading computer program module already begins with the reading of a segment while the supplying computer program module is still supplying data, and

a direct transmission of the data between the supplying computer program module and the reading computer program module occurs without buffering.

12. A computer program system of claim 11 wherein the transmission mode is selected controlled by parameters, and wherein the reading computer program module and the computer program module supplying the data cooperate via the control parameters.

13. The computer program system of claim 11 wherein in the transmission mode with the direct transmission of the data, the reading computer program module reacts, controlled by the parameters, in one of the following manners when data to be read no longer exists:

the read event is continuously repeated until data to be read is present, or until the reading computer program module receives a notification that data is no longer being supplied, or

the read event is aborted.

14. A computer program system according to claim 11 wherein the data are supplied in blocks in a block format predetermined by the supplying computer program.

15. A computer program system according to claim 11 wherein the data transmission of the data occurs via a socket connection established between the supplying computer program module and the reading computer program module.

16. A computer program system according to claim 11 wherein the data to be transferred are print data, and print data servers are used as a server.

17. A computer program system according to claim 16 wherein given the storage in segments of print data, print data of a print job are

already further processed via the reading computer program and a subsequent process, while subsequent print data of the same print job are still being stored.

18. A computer program module according to claim 16 wherein the transmission mode to be applied is established dependent on the print job in a print job corollary file.

19. A computer program module according to claim 16 wherein the writing computer program module runs on the first server, and the reading computer program runs on a second server.

20. A computer program system of claim 11 wherein the transmission mode is selected controlled by parameters, and wherein the reading computer program module and the computer program module supplying the data cooperate via the parameters.